

terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of organizations like the Liberty Rotary Club signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Liberty Rotary Club has joined more than 8,000 Missouri Rotarians in their statewide effort to raise \$100,000 to provide for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the Liberty Rotary Club is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

A MORMON MOMENT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, the national news publication, *Newsweek*, has published an article entitled "A Mormon Moment," authored by Mr. Kenneth L. Woodward, (9/10/01) which highlights the growing influence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, sometimes referred to as the LDS Church, or "Mormon Church" in world religion, and in particular, its influence in my home State of Utah. As home to the upcoming 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Salt Lake City, also serves as the world headquarters for the church.

Woodward's article made the case that the church, its history, its doctrine and influence on political and civic affairs will be under the world's media spotlight during the 2002 Winter Games in February. I think that is a safe assumption.

Religious belief is a deeply personal subject. Religious faith, or the lack thereof, defines largely who we are as a person. It is one of the most profound influences on our individual thoughts and actions. It is inherently difficult for a person of one faith to objectively and completely explain the doctrines and beliefs of another faith. I believe that, as a non-LDS reporter, Mr. Woodward's characterizations of LDS doctrines and teachings may have encountered some of this same difficulty.

As a fourth and fifth generation member of the LDS church, I must admit that I found

some of Mr. Woodward's characterizations of my beliefs and the history of the church to be strained or not entirely accurate in some instances, and perpetuates some unfortunate and outdated stereotypes.

However, it is not really appropriate or productive to engage in debate or detailed discussions on religious doctrines and beliefs on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and that is not my purpose in bringing this subject up tonight. Again, religious belief is deeply felt and personal, and each person should be left to discover and follow his or her own faith.

My purpose in coming to the floor on this subject tonight is seek to dispel the notion inherent in this article that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or LDS Church, is actively seeking to exploit the 2002 Winter Games. I also want to dispel the notion that the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Games is somehow beholden to or acting improperly in concert with the LDS Church.

I think that a few points must be made in counterbalance to Mr. Woodward's article that will help place all of this in perspective.

First, I respectfully disagree with the author's assertion that "[n]ot since the ancient Olympics were held under the gaze of Zeus and his randy band of gods and goddesses have the Games been staged in a local so thoroughly saturated by a single religion."

Approximately 72% of Utahans statewide claim membership to the LDS church. Even though 72% is still a substantial majority, the author failed to point out that within Salt Lake City itself, the figures are roughly 50% LDS members to 50% non-members. He also failed to point out that while many of Utah's prominent government leaders are LDS (which should not be a surprise when reflecting the composition of the general population), he failed to note that the last two mayors of Utah's largest city and capitol, Salt Lake City, including the current mayor, are not Members of the LDS church.

For balance, I think it's important to recognize that religious influences often permeate local cultures wherever one chooses to look. Olympic events have been held in several other venues where there have been even greater religious majorities than Salt Lake City.

For example, I recall the Winter Olympic Games being held in Grenoble, France, in the late 1960's. France's population is over 90% Roman Catholic, and that particular faith and the history of the French people and culture are inseparable. The French have historically viewed their national identity as being intertwined with Catholicism. It is part of "who they are."

Another example is the Winter Olympic Games which were held in Lillehammer, Norway. I recently visited Norway. It is an extraordinarily beautiful country. Approximately 86% of the population are Lutheran. In addition, Lutheranism is the State Church. One could say the same thing about the influence of protestantism on Norwegian culture and politics as that which Catholicism had on France.

Yet another example is the most recent winter games held in Nagano, Japan. 98% of Japanese are followers of the ancient Shinto and Buddhist religions.

I'm sure that if we looked further, we could find other similar examples. Therefore, it should not strike the world, nor the media, as

unusual that religion plays an important part in the culture and history of Salt Lake City and its people. To the extent that this fact is newsworthy is the result of decisions made by the media themselves, and is not part of any organized effort on the part of the church or the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. I sincerely hope that the motivation for some of the media coverage of the LDS Church and its doctrines in the context of the 2002 Olympics is not motivated by some religious bias or prejudice based on specific beliefs.

For example, wouldn't it strike most people odd to have *Newsweek* write articles discussing specific Catholic or Lutheran, or Shinto religious beliefs in detail in the context of an Olympic story in France, Norway or Japan? To some extent, the attention focused on specific LDS religious beliefs in the context of the 2002 Winter Games seems out of place.

Second, I think the author did not adequately express the separateness of the 2002 Winter Games and the Salt Lake Organizing Committee from the LDS Church. They are entirely separate. One is a religious organization and world religion. The other is a secular organization. While there are LDS members who serve on the SLOC Executive Committee, a substantial majority of SLOC officials and employees are not members of the LDS Church.

It has been my experience that both organizations have sought, very diligently, to ensure that there is no undue influence, or even the appearance of undue influence, by the Church on the organization or outcome of the games. Any assertion that there has been undue influence is totally unsubstantiated.

Further, I would like to point out that these are America's Games. They're the world's games. They're not Utah's Games, nor the LDS Church's games. Like any other American city or state, we're proud to host, for a short time, the premier winter sports events in the world.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that people would recognize that the reason that Salt Lake City was chosen to host the 2002 Winter Games is because of its reputation as having the "Greatest Snow on Earth." It has world-class skiing opportunities and venues.

We are all working together to ensure that all visitors feel welcome in Utah and in the United States. If you come to the games, you will have a good time. The focus will be on the athletic competition, as it should be.

We welcome the world to our state. We have nothing to hide and nothing to be embarrassed about. We also have nothing to apologize for. Utah's citizens of whatever religious background share in their pride and enthusiasm for upholding the Olympic Spirit. There is, and will be, a place at the table for everyone.

IN HONOR OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION—LOCAL 1311

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude and admiration for the men and women of the Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 1311

of the International Association of Fire Fighters. This organization represents more than one thousand fire fighters, officers, and EMS workers in Baltimore County. Each and every day, these heroes risk their lives serving the citizens of Baltimore County.

In the wake of the tragic and cowardly attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Local 1311 sprung into action. Recognizing that over three hundred and fifty fellow fire fighters lost their lives during the horrific events of September 11, 2001, members of Local 1311 rapidly organized a fundraising drive to assist the families of our fallen heroes.

Inspired by the IAFF's creation of the New York 9/11 Disaster Relief Fund, the association began a direct campaign to solicit donations for this worthy effort. Local 1311 members hit the streets of Baltimore County from September 21–23. Fire Fighters diligently worked street corners and shopping malls asking for contributions. I am pleased to report the public responded generously. While the final tally has not been calculated, approximately \$300,000 was raised for the 9/11 Fund. All Baltimore County Fire Fighters merit our thanks and congratulations.

I want to express my personal thanks to Local 1311 Trustee, Mr. Ted Moffitt, for coordinating the overall effort. The entire leadership of the organization led by President Mike Day, Secretary-Treasurer Jim Kinard, and Office Assistant Elizabeth Grove assisted with logistical support. Finally, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to Mr. Edwin F. Hale, Chairman of First Mariner Bank, for the support and assistance he and the bank provided in handling, counting, and safeguarding the voluminous amount of coin and currency collected. This group effort represents the best in America; it will undoubtedly provide much needed relief to survivors of our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, fire fighters are truly America's bravest. I applaud the Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters for their hard work and commitment to their county, country, and fellow citizens.

THE TALIBAN AND TERRORISM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention a recent op-ed in the Los Angeles Times by Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs under the previous administration. The piece by Mr. Inderfurth details the warnings that the United States clearly, directly and emphatically issued to the Taliban in 1999 regarding their support for, and terrorists activities of, Osama bin Laden. Assistant Secretary Inderfurth informed Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate to Mullah Omar, in February of 1999 that the United States would hold the Taliban accountable for bin Laden's future actions and reiterated the request to expel bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice.

I ask that the following Los Angeles Times Op-Ed by Karl Inderfurth be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the Los Angeles Times]

FACE TO FACE WITH THE TALIBAN

(By Karl F. Inderfurth)

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush said we will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them. The Taliban of Afghanistan should not have been surprised by this statement. They were similarly warned by the U.S. government more than two years ago.

The meeting took place Feb. 3, 1999, at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Islamabad. As the assistant secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, I was instructed to deliver a message about Osama bin Laden and terrorism to a high-ranking official of the Taliban movement. I was accompanied by the State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, Michael Sheehan. Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate of the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, and a possible liaison with Bin Laden, traveled to Pakistan to meet with us. The bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania nearly six months earlier had made it horrifyingly clear that Afghanistan-based terrorism was direct threat to the United States. We were outraged that after all the support the United States had given the Afghan resistance during its struggle against the Soviet Union, the terrorists tied to the bombings, including Bin Laden, were trained and based in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government had repeatedly demanded that the Taliban stop giving safe haven to terrorists. It had also appealed to nations, like Pakistan, that have influence in Kabul. But the situation did not change.

The message I delivered at the February meeting went further than any previous one issued by the U.S. government. Arriving late in the evening from Kandahar, Afghanistan, Mullah Jalil was accompanied by the Taliban's representative in Islamabad. Along with Sheehan, I stressed that the Taliban needed to expel Bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice. I emphasized that it was vitally important for the Taliban to act, because the American government believed that Bin Laden was still plotting acts of terrorism against the U.S.—and that we would hold the Taliban responsible for his actions. The message could not have been clearer.

Speaking softly through his interpreter, and frequently stroking his beard, Mullah Jalil responded. He began with a prayer, then proceeded to argue that the Taliban's actions conformed to their interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law. He said Bin Laden was an honored guest of the Taliban for the role he had played in the Jihad, or holy war, during the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. Mullah Jalil acknowledged that Bin Laden was increasingly a burden on Afghanistan, but the Afghani tradition of hospitality did not permit them to force Bin Laden to leave. Mullah Jalil assured us, however, that Bin Laden was under the Taliban's control and that he could not possibly be operating a worldwide terrorist network as we had suggested. Finally, he demanded that we show him the evidence against Bin Laden and that then the Taliban would act according to Islamic law. Sheehan did, citing chapter and verse from the indictment of Bin Laden for his role in the East Africa embassy bombings.

Later efforts were made to provide the Taliban with more information about the U.S. case against Bin Laden, but they never responded. The nearly three-hour session with Mullah Jalil produced no meeting of the minds. Subsequently, the United Nations Security Council tried to persuade the Taliban

to turn over Bin Laden. Two resolutions were adopted, in October 1999 and December 2000, and sanctions were imposed on the Taliban to accomplish that purpose. Again, the Taliban defied these calls by the international community.

Meanwhile, the Taliban, and some of their supporters, tried to misrepresent our campaign against Bin Laden and terrorism as an attack against Islam. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The United States does not oppose Islam. The United States respects Islam. But we oppose those who commit or condone criminal acts, especially those who commit and inflict grievous injury against civilians in the name of any ideology, religion or cause.

Today, the Taliban and their leader, Mullah Omar, are facing another hour of truth. Let us hope they will change their mind promptly and turn over Bin Laden to appropriate authorities in a country where he can be brought to justice and close down the terrorist training facilities in Afghanistan. If they do not the United States will respond. The Taliban have been warned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 24, 2001, I was delayed in returning to Washington, D.C. from Columbus, OH due to inclement weather. As a result, I was unable to record a vote on rollcall No. 349 (H.R. 717) and rollcall No. 350 (H.J. Res. 65). I fully support these important measures and had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both.

POWER TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 18, family and friends gathered together at St. Helen's Church in Norwell, Massachusetts to mourn the loss of John J. Corcoran, a victim of the tragic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11. The memorial service was a stirring reflection of the life and spirit of Mr. Corcoran. From the depths of grief came a deeply moving tribute from his sister, Debi Corcoran of Helena, Montana. Her words of eulogy were so genuinely inspirational that I commend them to all of my congressional colleagues:

On the morning of September 11th, my brother Jay kissed his two children and his wife good-bye and raced to catch United Airlines flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles, where he would resume his job as a Merchant Marine engineering officer. At 9:03 a.m. EST, his plane crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center, killing all on board and thousands within the building as the tower crumbled to the ground. There had been the possibility that Jay had missed his flight, so my family and I, like many other families, held a vigil of prayer for most of the day while we awaited official word from the airlines. Even when the call finally came, it was all too surreal I had just spent the most wonderful family reunion with all my sisters and